

**APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR THE PRECISE
LOCATION OF REACTION PLATES**

RELATED APPLICATION

This is a continuation of application Ser. No. 09/321,311, filed May 27,

5 1999

now abandoned.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to the positioning of multi-well plates in laboratory machines. More particularly, the invention provides an apparatus and method for accurately locating a multi-well plate at a plate-support region of a laboratory machine,
10 so that one or more acting members, e.g., an array of pipette tips or optical readers, can operate on the individual wells.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

In chemical and biological laboratories, it is often necessary to perform analytical and/or experimental assays or procedures on large numbers of laboratory
15 specimens. For example, a lab technician might need to determine the reaction of many

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